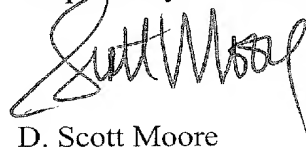


In re: Gutnik et al.  
Serial No.: 09/919,372  
Filed: July 31, 2001  
Page 9

### REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Action of December 12, 2006 (hereinafter "Office Action"). Applicants especially appreciate the allowance of Claims 1 - 24. In response, Applicants have canceled rejected Claims 25 and 26 without prejudice or disclaimer. These amendments are being made to advance prosecution and to facilitate an early allowance of the present application and shall not be construed as acquiescence to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Moreover, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of canceled Claims 25 and 26 in one or more continuing applications. In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-entitled application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (919) 854-1400

Respectfully submitted,



D. Scott Moore  
Registration No. 42,011

**Customer No. 20792**

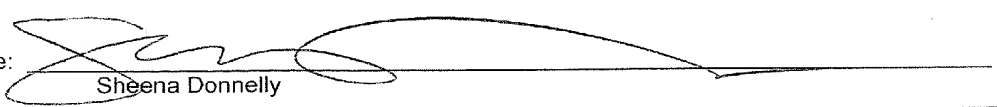
Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec  
P. O. Box 37428  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27627  
Telephone: (919) 854-1400  
Facsimile: (919) 854-1401

Doc. 551995

#### CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on March 6, 2007.

Signature:



Sheena Donnelly